

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims to read as indicated herein.

1. (currently amended) A method of gathering information from short-range wireless portals, comprising the steps of:

- (a) physically moving a mobile device within range of a short-range wireless portal;
- (b) receiving information from ~~the~~ said portal about ~~the services~~ a service available through ~~the~~ a local entity operating ~~the~~ said portal;
- (c) sending a message containing ~~that~~ said information to a remote database service system ~~holding similar information from other portals~~;
- (d) storing ~~the~~ said information in a database at ~~the~~ said database service system.

2. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein said message also contains ~~the~~ a location of ~~the~~ said portal, ~~this~~ said location being stored with said information in ~~the~~ said database service system ~~whereby to permit location-based searching of~~ the said database service system for entities providing specified types of service.

3. (currently amended) A method according to claim 2, wherein ~~the~~ said location of ~~the~~ said portal is provided to ~~the~~ said mobile device by ~~the~~ said portal ~~itself~~.

4. (currently amended) A method according to claim 2, wherein ~~the~~ said location of ~~the~~ said portal is determined by ~~the~~ said mobile device at ~~the~~ a time of contact with ~~the~~ said portal.

5. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ said message is passed ~~to the~~ from said mobile device to ~~the~~ said database service system over a mobile cellular radio infrastructure.

6. (currently amended) A method according to claim 5, wherein upon receipt of said message ~~the~~ said database service system obtains ~~the~~ a location of ~~the~~ said mobile device from a location server of ~~the~~ said mobile radio infrastructure, ~~this location being stored with~~ and stores

said information in ~~the~~ said database service system ~~whereby~~ to permit location-based searching of ~~the~~ said database service system for entities providing specified types of service.

7. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1,
wherein said information is stored in ~~the~~ said mobile device, and ~~the~~
wherein said method further comprises sending said message containing this said
information is sent to the to said database service system at a later time ~~by any~~
~~appropriate means including by e-mail or by a web-based form sent over the internet.~~

8. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1,
wherein ~~the~~ said database service system acknowledges receipt of ~~the~~ said message ~~and this~~
acknowledgement is transmitted by transmitting an acknowledgement back to ~~the~~
said portal, where an indicator is set, ~~this~~
wherein said indicator, when set, ~~being used to prevent~~ is interpreted for preventing further
messages from being sent to ~~the~~ at least said database service system by ~~the same~~ said
mobile device or similar mobile devices that subsequently obtain information from
the said portal.

9. (currently amended) A method according to claim 8, wherein ~~the~~ said indicator is reset
by ~~the~~ said local entity operating ~~the~~ said portal when there is a change in ~~the~~ information
available from ~~the~~ said portal.

10. (currently amended) A method according to claim 8,
wherein ~~the~~ said database service system has an associated identifier ~~which~~ that is stored
with said indicator ~~and is used to restrict the action of preventing repeat message~~
~~sends, to resends to the database service system indicated by said identifier and,~~
wherein said preventing is restricted to preventing messages being sent to said database
service system as identified by said associated identifier.

11. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ said storing ~~in the database service system of the said~~ information ~~about the services available from the local entity associated with the portal,~~ results in ~~the~~ a user of the said mobile device being recorded a reward.

12. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein said information includes ~~the~~ a name or trading style of ~~the~~ said local entity and contact information ~~such as a telephone number, e-mail address or website URL.~~

13. (currently amended) A mobile device comprising:

- a short-range wireless receiver for receiving information from a short-range wireless portal about ~~the services~~ a service available through ~~the~~ a local entity operating the said portal;
- ~~means~~ a data handling subsystem for forming a message containing ~~that~~ said information together with location data about ~~the~~ a location of ~~the~~ said portal; and
- a cellular radio subsystem for sending ~~the~~ said message to a remote database service system over a mobile radio infrastructure for storage in a database.

14. (currently amended) A mobile device according to claim 13, further comprising ~~means~~ an arrangement for receiving an acknowledgement back from ~~the~~ said database service system and for passing ~~this acknowledgement to the~~ said acknowledgement to said portal.

Please add the following claims, newly numbered as claims 15 - 18.

15. (new) The method of claim 7, wherein said sending of said information at said later time is performed by way of a technique selected from the group consisting of email over the Internet, a web-based form over the Internet, and combinations thereof.

16. (new) The method of claim 12, wherein said contact information comprises a type selected from the group consisting of a telephone number, an email address, a website URL, and combinations thereof.

17. (new) A method of gathering information from short-range wireless portals, comprising the steps of:

- (a) physically moving a mobile device within range of a short-range wireless portal;
- (b) receiving information from said portal about services available through a local entity operating said portal;
- (c) sending a message containing said information to a remote database service system; and
- (d) storing said information at said database service system,

wherein steps (a) to (d) are repeated, using said mobile device or different mobile devices, for a plurality of short-range wireless portals, each of which provide respective information, wherein said respective information is sent to said database service system to build up at said database service system a database about services available through local entities operating said plurality of short-range wireless portals.

18. (new) An apparatus comprising:

a database service system connected to a communications system that includes a mobile radio infrastructure; and

a mobile device comprising:

- a short-range wireless receiver for receiving information from a short-range wireless portal about services available through a local entity operating said portal;
- a data handling subsystem for forming a message containing said information together with location data about a location of said portal; and
- a cellular radio subsystem for sending said message to said database service system over said mobile radio infrastructure;

wherein said database service system receives a plurality of messages containing information about a plurality of wireless portals, and uses said plurality of messages to build up a location-related database about services available through local entities operating said plurality of wireless portals.